

Izaak Walton League Honors Retired Milwaukee Teacher

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Of The Journal Staff

A retired Milwaukee school-teacher, who has been a conservation education leader more than 30 years, was rewarded with the state Izaak Walton league's annual conservation award Saturday night. This was after Miss Pearl Pohl, of 2849 N. Farwell av., spent the day doing one of the many things she was honored for—directing the annual Young Wisconsin Conservationists conference.



Miss Pohl

It was nine years ago that Miss Pohl, who retired in 1953, persuaded the Waltonians to sponsor the field day for outstanding high school students interested in conservation as a part of the league's annual meeting.

Saturday, some 30 youths took a 67 mile bus tour of the Root river valley watershed from Milwaukee to Racine. It was an effective lesson in the need for regional planning.

One youth, Michael Halla, of 2040 S. 25th st., had a one word comment on what he would do if he lived in the lowlands which are subject to flooding and dependent on septic tanks for sanitation.

"Move," he said.

"They'll clean up the river, but the people will still have a problem with septic tanks if they aren't on the right soil," he added.

Moving Not Practical

But moving is not always practical, so the planning and education experts who acted as advisers posed the question as to what is needed to improve the situation.

"Make information available," answered John Cebula, 1832 N. 60th st. He added that Milwaukee showed exceptional planning in having parks on both sides of the

river. Someone added that parks and golf courses appeared less vulnerable to flood damage.

Other responses included that by Tyrus Baumann, Sheboygan, who said "A goal." John McNelly, 17305 Todd av., New Berlin, said people should be educated to abide by the law.

There was plenty of evidence to support the kind of teaching Miss Pohl advocated.

Her 1949 article in the Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin on teaching conservation to sixth graders stressed outdoor experience. She won the league award that year for her work with 8 to 14 year olds.

Miss Pohl began teaching in Milwaukee at the age of 18 and taught for 45 years, first giving her pupils the simple approach of sharpening pencils carefully and not wasting paper.

Drove Old Ford

"At one time," said Don Neindorf, Manitowoc, in presenting the league's top award, "she owned an old Ford which she and her mother drove all over the state wherever there was something interesting being done in conservation.

A former principal has credited her with aggressive conservation leadership as far back as 1935. He said he felt she influenced establishment of a strong conservation curriculum in Milwaukee schools. In 1960, she founded the La-Budde Memorial league chapter in Milwaukee, the only all-women's unit in the state, and has been its president since.

Baumann, 18, a Sheboygan,

North high school junior, was awarded a \$100 scholarship for outstanding leadership in the youth program. Michael Drossel, Sheboygan Falls, was runnerup.

James M. Borden, 2478 N. 73rd st., Wauwatosa, an investment broker, was elected president of the Wisconsin division of the league. Vice-presidents are Mrs. Edith Hockrach, Muskego; John Moravec, jr., Cudahy; James Spindler, Manitowoc; Phillip Snow, Franklin, and Robert Unger, Hales Corners.